

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 23, 2002

### **HINCHEY CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF INVESTORS' AND EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS**

BINGHAMTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today called for empowering federal regulators to root out corporate corruption and for imposing stiffer penalties for executives who commit fraud. Speaking at a press conference, Hinchey blamed lax federal regulations and underfunded government agencies for creating an atmosphere in which corporate misdeeds have been allowed to hurt thousands of investors and workers.

"During the past two years, investors have lost nearly \$7 trillion as a result of the deregulatory, 'anything goes' climate created in the early days of the 'Contract with America,'" said Hinchey. "And it's not the fat cat Wall Street moguls who have suffered the most, but the working men and women of America who lost their jobs, postponed their retirements, and watched their savings disappear."

Hinchey provided details of actions taken by Republican leaders in Washington since 1995 that have limited executives' liability and restrained the federal government's ability to uncover illegalities. He also explained measures he supports that would close loopholes to more fully establish unethical practices as crimes, provide additional tools for uncovering corruption, and impose stiffer penalties for fraudulent acts.

The Republican leadership in the House of Representatives is calling for a vote this week on a resolution urging Congress to pass pension reform before the end of the session. Hinchey supports pension reform, but said the Republican plan that passed the House would do nothing to make the pension system and the retirement safety net in America safer and stronger.

"Instead of scolding the Senate for not acting on the 'Pension Security Act' passed by the House in April, we should be praising them for derailing this special interest legislation," he added. "If we learned anything from the recent corporate crime wave, it should be that corporate insiders typically put their interests ahead of workers and investors unless there are strong safeguards to keep their greed in check."